

# Special Meeting of the Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, June 5, 2012

## Present

Cassandra Day (vice-chair)  
Richard Kamins  
Joyce Kirkpatrick  
Linda Salafia (council)  
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)  
Lee Godburn (chair)  
Barbara Arafah  
Charlotte McCoid  
Bob Santangelo (council)  
Lea Tomaszewski (5:40p)  
David Davis (5:45p)

## Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff  
  
Mayor Daniel T. Drew  
Joseph Samolis, Mayor's Chief of Staff

## Absent

Lauren Hodge (student rep)  
Maria Malafronte (student rep)  
Fran Ganguli

## Call to order

Commission Chair Godburn called the special meeting with the Mayor to order at 5:36 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Room 111, Middletown, CT. The chair turned the meeting over to the Mayor.

## Efficiency Task Force recommendations

The task force recommends putting the arts under the planning and economic development department as is done on the state level. The Mayor commented that the MCA is leading the way for the arts in the community. Additionally, the type and scope of arts funded by MCA reflects our culturally rich and diverse community. While it is understood that the arts are an economic driver, what is difficult is finding quantifiable methods for measuring the impact of the arts in our city.

The Mayor answered questions posed by the commissioners, and engaged in lively crosstalk. The Commissioners, as a body and individually, questioned the efficacy of this move and stated, for a variety of reasons, their preference to not have this move take place and/or stated their concern of marginalizing the very economic driver that is the arts in Middletown.

We thank the Mayor for including us in this process. The Mayor left the meeting at 6:25

## MCA future direction

This agenda item was discussed within the general discussion.

## Loan of City Seal art

The commission discussed its willingness to loan the City Seal art to the museum in question for the four months requested and that a full discussion be included in the regular June meeting.

Richard moved to adjourn. Charlotte seconded. Motion carried. Adjourned 6:30.